

14.—CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FAUNA OF ROTTNEST ISLAND.

No. V.

Opiliones in the Western Australian Museum.

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Translated from the German by L. GLAUERT.

(With One Text Figure 18).

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The very few Opilionids that have as yet been recorded from Western Australia, have all been immature specimens. Dr. J. C. C. Loman, who examined the collection obtained by Michaelsen and Hartmeyer in 1905, when dealing with that material, was able to identify but a single species by means of two not quite mature, and many young animals,* the balance of the specimens considered to represent Phalangiidæ, being too immature to allow a more definite opinion to be expressed.

The collection of Western Australian Opilionids kindly sent to me for examination by Mr. L. Glauert, the Curator of the Western Australian Museum, is more comprehensive than any series previously examined, but, unfortunately, is also mainly composed of young or immature animals. They are mostly Triænonychidæ (Triænonychinæ), but include also a few quite immature Palpatores (Phalangiinæ) and three examples of a species belonging to a new genus of the Phalangodidæ (Samoinæ) which are of particular interest because they constitute the first record of the presence of Phalangodids on the Australian continent. Further they belong to the sub-family Samoinæ, which, up to the present, is represented by a few forms collected in Samoa, Fiji and the Seychelles.

Family TRIÆNONYCHIDÆ, Soerensen 1886.

1903 Pocock described under the name *Triænonyx aspera*, a Triænonychid represented in the British Museum by a single specimen—the type—which had reached that Institution from "Australia." In his description Pocock gives the length of the first, third and fourth legs, but omits that of the second, although he notes that the tarsus of this leg is 13-jointed. In view of the fact that the only specimen in London, the type, had lost its second pair of legs it must have been impossible to determine either the length of the limb or the number of segments in its tarsal joint.

Neither Pocock (1903) nor Loman (1910) have noted the number of articles in the terminal joint of the tarsus, although Soerensen had already in 1902 directed attention to the great importance of this feature. The specimens of *Nuncia* before me in 1914 and 1923, had three joints in the tarsus of the second leg, and the series did not include *Nuncia aspera*,† so that I was unable to give the number of articles in the terminal segment of its second leg. The specimens from Western Australia now before me, which agree in every character with Pocock's description of *Nuncia (Triænonyx) aspera*, all possess when adult four articles in the terminal segment of the tarsus of the second leg.

* Fauna Sudwest Australiens, vol. III., part 4. Opiliones by Dr. J. C. C. Loman, Jena, 1910, p. 127 *et seq.*

† In 1914 I wrongly quoted the specific name as *aspera*, an error which also appeared in "Weberknechte der Erde" of 1923.

Further, *Nuncia* (*Triaenonyx*) *aspera* is the only species of the genus occurring in Western Australia,* the others, with the exception of *N. sericata*, Roewer, from New South Wales, having been obtained in New Zealand. It is therefore necessary to separate Pocock's *aspera* from these forms with three articles in the terminal segment of the tarsus of the second leg, and I propose for them the name *Nunciella*.

The diagnosis of this new genus would read as follows:—

Nunciella, nov. gen.

1903 *Triaenonyx* (part.), Pocock in Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1902, Part II, p. 404.

1910 *Triaenonyx*, Loman in Die Fauna Sudwest Australiens Band III., Lief 4. Opiliones p. 133.

1914 *Nuncia* (part.), Roewer in Arch. Naturg. Vol. 80, A. fasc. 12, p. 80.

1923 *Nuncia* (part.), Roewer Die Weberknechte der Erde, p. 592.

Characters of the Family Triaenonychidae (Roewer Weberknechte der Erde, p. 585).

Characters of the Sub-family Triaenonychinae (Roewer op. cit. p. 586) with the following additions:—Carapace shorter than the scutum; frontal margin of the carapace without transverse furrow. Eye tubercle broader than high, rising in front directly from the frontal margin, unarmed. Legs: first leg unarmed; metatarsus of the 1st-4th legs with the calcaneus much shorter than the astragalus; middle member of the tridentate claw of the third and fourth tarsi much stronger than the outer members. Terminal joint of the first tarsus biarticulate, that of the second quadriarticulate; tarsus of the first leg triarticulate, that of the second leg with more than six joints (8-14 joints). The third and four legs have the tarsus always four-jointed.

Western Australia—1 species.

Nunciella Aspera (Pocock).

Synonymy as for the genus.

Diagnosis as for the genus with the following special features:—The basal segment of the three-jointed tarsus of the first leg much expanded in the male, not expanded, normal, in the female.

Localities:—

Australia, without further particulars—1 specimen, identified by Pocock in 1903 as *Triaenonyx aspera*. Type—British Museum. The basal segment of the tarsus of the first leg not expanded.

South-Western Australia:—

Pinjarra, one specimen not quite mature.

Lunenburg, two pulli.

Brunswick, one specimen, almost mature.

Bridgetown, one pullus.

All identified by Loman 1910 as *T. aspera*. Mus. Hamburg.

The Present Collection of the Western Australian Museum, Perth:—

Darlington, one male, one female. 28-526/7 col. L. Glauert, May, 1928.

Cape Leeuwin, one female 1914-993 col. W. B. Alexander, July, 1914.

Serpentine, one male, four pulli 27-778/792 col. L. Glauert, June, 1927.

Serpentine Falls, one male one female, five pulli 28-746/753 col. L. Glauert, August, 1928.

* See Loman 1910.

Near Lake Herschell, Rottneest Island, one pullus, 27-1099 coll. L. Glauert, August, 1927.

Near Lake Herschell, Rottneest Island, thirteen pulli, 27-1100/12 coll. L. Glauert, September, 1927.

Point Clune, Rottneest Island, six pulli, 27-1113/1118 coll. L. Glauert September, 1927.

North Point, Rottneest Island, three pulli, 27-1119/1121 col. L. Glauert, September, 1927.

Family PHALANGODIDAE, Simon 1879.

The following new genus and species of the Sub-family Samoinae is present in the collection.

Bindoona, nov. gen.

Eye tubercle close to the frontal margin of the carapace, low, rounded above, unarmed, boundary between the carapace and areae of the scutum indefinite, scutum and free tergites of the abdomen unarmed, stigmata distinctly visible. Coxae of all the legs unarmed. Chelicerae normal in structure. Pedipalpi with all the joints spinose, femur equal to the other joints in thickness with a medial-apical spine; legs unarmed; number of joints in the tarsi of the legs 1 to 4, 2-3-5-5; terminal segment of the tarsus of the first leg undivided, that of the tarsus of the second leg two-jointed; tarsi of the third and fourth legs with a pair of simple, not serrated, claws, without pseudonychium, but with dense scopula.

Western Australia one species.

Bindoona glauerti, nov. sp. (fig. 18.)

Length of the body 1.3 mm.

Surface of carapace and scutum finely and closely granular, otherwise unarmed, furrows absent. Eye tubercle close to the frontal margin of the carapace, transversely oval, low, unarmed, not basally con-

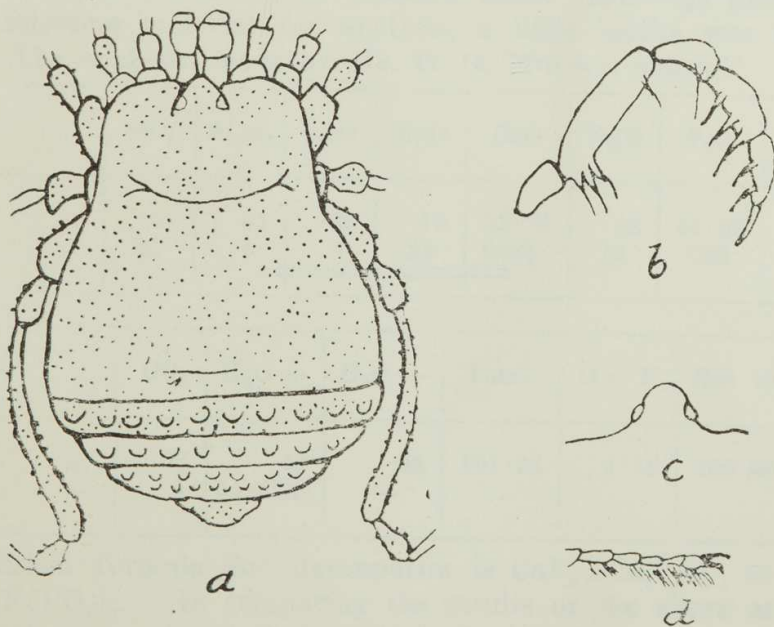


Fig. 18.

- a. *Bindoona glauerti* nov. gen., nov. sp.
- b Inner view of palp.
- c Frontal view of eye tubercle.
- d Tarsus of fourth leg with scopula.

stricted, the two eyes quite unpigmented. Free tergites of the abdomen: first and second free tergites with one transverse row of coarse, blunt tubercles, third free tergite with two transverse rows of same, tergites otherwise unarmed. Operculum anale only finely granular. Free sternites of the abdomen and surface of the coxae of all the legs finely granular. Stigmata distinctly visible in the furrow between stigate-sternite and the fourth Coxa; Chelicerae smooth, their first joint with a dorsal apical swelling. Pedipalpi: Trochanter unarmed, femur with three ventral-basal and one medial-apical spines, patella ventrally with one apical spine on either side, tibia with three ventral-medial and two ventral lateral spines. Tarsus ventrally with two spines on either side. Legs unarmed, femora slender, slightly sigmoidal, number of joints in the Tarsi 2, 3, 5, 5. Colour of the body and of all the appendages pale rusty yellow. Western Australia, South Bindoon, 3 specimens 27-672/674. Coll. L. Glauert, May, 1927.

Type in W.A. Museum, Co-type in Coll. Roewer.

Family PHALANGIIDAE.

The following specimens of Palpatores belonging to the family Phalangidae were too immature to be identified:—

Peppermint Grove, near Perth, 1 pullus 27-1388. Coll. L. Glauert, September, 1927.

Pemberton, 1 pullus 28-55. Coll. R. C. Whiteford, January, 1928.

Serpentine Falls, 1 pullus 28-744. Coll. L. Glauert, August, 1928.

Serpentine Falls, 1 pullus 28-745. Coll. L. Glauert, August, 1928.